

Application No. 10/025,832
Amendment dated November 17, 2003
Reply to Office Action of July 17, 2003

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending.

Claims 1-15 stand rejected.

Claims 1, 3, 4 and 15 have been amended.

Claims 12-14 have been cancelled without prejudice.

New claims 16-27 have been added.

Claims 1-11 and 15-27 are hereby submitted for review and consideration.

No new matter has been added.

In paragraph 1 of the Office Action the Examiner has rejected claim 4 for containing a minor informality. Applicant has amended claim 4 accordingly and respectfully requests that the objection to this claim be withdrawn.

In paragraph 2 of the Office Action the Examiner has rejected claim 14 for containing a minor informality. Applicant has cancelled claim 14 without prejudice and respectfully requests that the objection to this claim be withdrawn.

In paragraph 3 of the Office Action the Examiner has rejected claim 15 for containing a minor informality. Applicant has amended claim 15 accordingly and respectfully requests that the objection to this claim be withdrawn.

In paragraph 5 of the Office Action the Examiner has rejected claims 12-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention. Applicant has cancelled claims 12-14 without prejudice and respectfully requests that the objections to these claims be withdrawn.

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Applicant notes that claim 3 has been amended to correct a minor spelling error, no new matter has been added.

In paragraph 8 of the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1-9, 12 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Mansur (U.S. Patent No. 70,586) and in paragraph 10, claims 10 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mansur in view of Lawrence (U.S. Patent No. 6457218).

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's contentions and submits the following remarks in response.

Regarding new claims 16-27, new independent claim 16 is directed to a combination of the features of claim 1 in addition to the allowed features of now cancelled claim 13, and claim 12 from which it depended. Applicant has corrected the language to overcome the rejections to cancelled claims 12 and 13 with respect to 35 U.S.C. § 112. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that new independent claim 16 as well as new claims 17-27, which depend therefrom, be allowed.

Regarding independent claim 1, the present invention is directed towards an alignment device for aligning a punch tool having internal guides to punch a design into a specific location on a sheet media, comprised of a clip, having first and second resilient arms meeting at a connection point. A first guide edge is disposed angularly from the first resilient arm, corresponding to the internal guides of the punch tool, such that when the punch tool is secured in the clip between the first and second resilient arms and the sheet media is placed along the first guide edge, the punch tool is positioned to punch a design into the specific location on the sheet media.

In this configuration, the present invention advantageously provides for an

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accessory in which a clip is attached to a punch tool, having internal guides, so as to provided enhanced alignment between the punch tool and the corresponding sheet media disposed therein. Such an arrangement provides a synchronizing relationship between the punch tool and the sheet media, as facilitated through the placement of the sheet media along a guide edge of the clip, located on one of the resilient arms, allowing for a higher probability that the sheet media will be properly punched in the specific location on the sheet media.

The cited prior art, namely Mansur teaches an ice grapple, consisting of an elastic wire having a pair of shanks A, a handle/coil B and a pair of hooks or claws C disposed at either end of shanks A. The ice grapple is configured to grasp a piece of ice using the hooks C and then to release the ice when either inward or outward pressure is applied to the shanks A.

Applicant respectfully submits that the Mansur reference does not teach or suggest all of the elements of the present invention. For example, there is no teaching or suggestion in Mansur for a first guide edge disposed angularly from the first resilient arm, corresponding to the internal guides of the punch tool, such that when the sheet media is placed along said first guide edge, the punch tool is positioned to punch a design into the specific location on the sheet media.

Contrary to the Examiner's contention, there is no mention in Mansur for guide edges, corresponding to the internal guides of the punch tool, configured to align sheet media within the punch tool, so that a design can be punched into a specific location on the sheet media. Rather, Mansur simply describes a pair of hooks C which in no way teaches or suggests that such hooks are capable of aligning a sheet media along a punch

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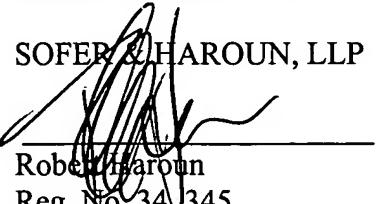
tool's corresponding internal guides, let alone aligning the sheet media within punch device so as to punch a design into a specific location on the sheet media.

Furthermore, there is no teaching or suggestion in Mansur that discloses a punch tool to be secured in the clip between the first and second resilient arms. Mansur discloses a single plane device having shanks A meeting a spring coil B, within a single plane. However, coil B is clearly illustrated in Figs. 1 and 2 to project with the opening area between shanks A and thus would not allow for a punch tool to be secured with the resilient arms, as claimed in claim 1 of the present invention.

For these reasons, Applicant submits that the Mansur reference does not teach or suggest all of the elements of claim 1 and respectfully requests that the rejection of this claim be withdrawn. The rejection of dependent claims 2-11 and 15 should be withdrawn for the same reasons as set forth above.

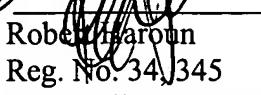
As such, Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention as claimed is now in condition for allowance, the earliest possible notice of which is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner feels that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of this application he is invited to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted


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